

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 183109 TOSEC 080327

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SUBJECT: ATLANTA AND HOUSTON EDITORIALS ON THE SECRETARY

1. RECENT EDITORIALS OF THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION AND THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE ON THE SECRETARY'S VISITS TO THE HEARTLAND ARE PERHAPS OF INTEREST.
2. ATLANTA CONSTITUTION DATED JULY 19: "KISSINGER'S 'FENCES'." SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER HAS BEEN OUT AND AROUND, SPEAKING OF FOREIGN POLICY IN MILWAUKEE AND MINNEAPOLIS AS WELL AS ATLANTA. THE WASHINGTON SNOBS HAVE REMARKED ON IT WITH WITHERING CONDESCENSION, SAYING THAT KISSINGER IS "TRYING TO MEND HIS POLITICAL FENCES."
3. HOW STUPIDLY ARROGANT THAT ATTITUDE IS. FOREIGN POLICY CAN BE DEFINED EASILY: IT IS THE COURSE OF ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL BENEFIT THE NATION.

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4. NOWHERE DOES IT SAY THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE MUST

MAKE UP HIS MIND ABOUT FOREIGN TRADE BY CONSULTING WITH THE GEORGETOWN NABOBS. THE JOB DESCRIPTION DOES NOT FORBID HIM TO DISCOVER WHAT AMERICANS THINK IN DECIDING WHETHER THE COUNTRY SHOULD REMAIN IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

5. KISSINGER PROPERLY HAS SCHEDULED HIMSELF AS A GUEST SPEAKER TO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL GROUPS. HE HAS SUBMITTED TO PRESS CONFERENCE AND AUDIENCE QUESTIONS. HE HAS LISTENED TO WHAT IS ON THE MINDS OF PEOPLE.

6. THE REST OF THE NATION IS "OUT THERE" TO A SNOBBISH BAND OF WASHINGTONIANS WHO JEALOUSLY GUARD THEIR RIGHTS TO THINK FOR ALL OF US. SOME OF THEM ARE IN THE MEDIA AND AS THEY CONCEIVE THE WORLD THERE COULD BE ONLY ONE POSSIBLE EXCUSE FOR ANY SECRETARY OF STATE TO TRAVEL OUT THERE: BUILD POLITICAL SUPPORT.

7. IT DOESN'T FOLLOW. THE ETHNIC GROUPS MOST CONCERNED WITH IMMIGRATION LAWS ARE IN THE AREAS WHERE KISSINGER HAS VISITED. THE WHEATLANDS WHICH GROW THE FARM PRODUCTS FOR FOREIGN TRADE ARE ON KISSINGER'S LIST. THE TAXPAYERS WHO HAVE TO ANTE UP FOR THE WEAPONS SYSTEMS WORK IN CITIES LIKE THOSE. THE MOST LOGICAL PLACES FOR AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY TO ORIGINATE ARE OUT THERE.

8. AMERICA IS ACCUSED OFTEN OF BEING PAROCHIAL TO THE POINT OF ABSURDITY. WASHINGTON DOES NOT HAVE A MONOPOLY ON THAT KIND OF THINKING, BUT IT IS STAKING OUT A STRONG CLAIM.

9. KISSINGER SEEMS THUS FAR TO HAVE BEEN LEVEL-HEADED ENOUGH TO IGNORE THE IMPLIED CRITICISM. TO HIS CREDIT, HE SEEMS TO HAVE UNDERSTOOD THAT IT IS NOT A POLITICAL BASE THAT PEOPLE WANT HIM TO BUILD, BUT AN UNDERSTANDING OF HOW AMERICANS FEEL ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY. THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED IN HIS FORTUNES SO MUCH AS THEIR OWN, AND THEY FEEL THOSE FORTUNES ARE BEST SERVED IF THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS TRAVELING AMONGST THEM SEEKING OUT DIVERGENT VIEWS.

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10. OUT THERE, INDEED; OUT HERE IS WHERE THE SECRETARY OF STATE SOMETIMES NEEDS TO BE. (END ATLANTA CONSTITUTION TEXT.)

11. HOUSTON CHRONICLE DATED JULY 19: "A PUBLIC MESSAGE FROM KISSINGER." SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SOURCE OF READABLE QUOTES. CORNERED IN A PLANE AFTER A HURRIED CONFERENCE WITH SOME WORLD FIGURE,

KISSINGER WOULD USUALLY OBLIGE THE REPORTER WITH A
FORCEFUL STATEMENT, OFTEN SUITABLE FOR A BANNER HEADLINE.

12. BUT KISSINGER'S AFTERWORDS SELDOM TOLD THE WHOLE
STORY. THEY LEFT MUCH UNEXPLAINED; THEY OFTEN WERE

MISINTERPRETED AT HOME AND ABROAD. SOMEHOW KISSINGER
ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE IN TOO MUCH OF A HURRY TO FULLY
EXPLAIN, AND THOSE WHO TRIED TO FILL IN THE GAPS WERE NOT
ALWAYS SUCCESSFUL IN INTERPRETING ADMINISTRATION POLICY
CORRECTLY.

13. TOWARD THE END OF JUNE, THE SECRETARY OF STATE
EMBARKED ON A LONG OVERDUE PROGRAM THAT SHOULD REMEDY THE
OVERSIGHTS SOMEWHAT. HE STARTED TALKING TO THE GENERAL
PUBLIC.

14. IN NEW YORK HE TALKED AT LENGTH ABOUT U.S. COMMIT-
MENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, WITH EMPHASIS ON SOUTH KOREA.

IN ATLANTA HE CLARIFIED U.S. RELATIONSHIPS WITH ITS
ALLIES, WARNING THAT "NO ALLY CAN PRESSURE US BY A THREAT
OF (TREATY) TERMINATION; WE WILL NOT ACCEPT THAT ITS
SECURITY IS MORE IMPORTANT TO US THAN TO ITSELF."

15. IN MILWAUKEE HE BLUNTLY DISCOURAGED ON THE UNITED
NATIONS, THE UNDUE PRESSURE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES TRY TO
EXERT THERE AND THE U.S. POSITION. IN MINNEAPOLIS HE
EXPLAINED HOW THERE IS "NO ALTERNATIVE TO COEXISTENCE"
WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

16. KISSINGER HOLDS A UNIQUE POSITION IN THE ADMINISTRA-
TION, AND HIS ROLE DEMANDS THAT HE GIVE A PUBLIC ACCOUNT-
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ING OCCASIONALLY. THE SERIES OF VOCAL ESSAYS DOES SO
NICELY. (END TEXT) INGERSOLL

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